

Application 10/710,574

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To: Charles D. Garber
Art Unit 2858

Thank you for detailed and thoughtful review of my application. I apologize for errors that caused inconsistent presentation of subject matter of the invention. I also amended claims 1 and 2, and canceled claim 8.

Term "automatically defined" was excluded from claims so no amendment to the specification is necessary.

Claim 1 had typographic error in the text "... a subject that do apply any type of energy" that intended to be "... a subject that do not apply any type of energy". This intention is clearly stated by paragraphs 12-13 and 19 of the specification.

Note that US Patent Application 2003/0009300 uses active probing technique as cited in the abstract: "A first sensor is excited so that the first sensor produces a responsive signal in the structure. The responsive signal is received at a second sensor."

Furthermore claim 1 is narrowed to exclude interference with techniques such as acoustic emission which rely on short unrepeatable events that caused by energy release from material fractures. As disclosed in paragraph 14 and 35 of the specification, the method of present invention omits such events.

Respectfully,

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